

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 EA-07 TRSE-00 INR-07

L-03 OMB-01 SIL-01 SP-02 PRS-01 H-01 PM-04 OES-06

NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /087 W

-----270536Z 058170 /14-L

R 261842Z JAN 77

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2871

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 3034

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 00813

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD, EPAP, EEC

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION COMMENTS UNCTAD RUBBER PREPCOM

REF: (A) GENEVA 420, (B) GENEVA 419, (C) EC BRUSSELS 397

1. COMMISSION OFFICIAL TRAN VAN THINH, WHO LED COMMISSION DELEGATION TO JANUARY 17-21 UNCTAD RUBBER PREPCOM, REPORTS SATISFACTION OVER MEETING RESULTS AND OVER ABILITY OF EC TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE, DESPITE DIVERSITY OF MEMBER STATE VIEWS. (SEE REF C.) TRAN COUNSELLED G-77 CHAIRMAN TO AVOID POLITICAL POLEMICS AND PRESSURE TACTICS. HE CLAIMS THAT THIS ADVICE HELPED TO GET PREPCOM OFF TO FAVORABLE START.

2. TRAN SAYS EC COMMODITIES WORKING GROUP WILL HOLD A SERIES OF MEETINGS TO PREPARE FOR APRIL/MAY PREPCOM. HE STILL PLANS TO CONSULT WITH ASEAN LEADERS IN MARCH. TRAN IS DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL NATURAL RUBBER COMMODITY AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD FAIRLY BALANCE THE INTERESTS OF CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS. HE WANTS TO DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL WITH KEY PREPCOM PARTICIPANTS. HE ASSURES MISSION OFFICER THAT HE WOULD NOT PUT FORWARD A CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECIFIC PROPOSAL WITHOUT FIRST DISCUSSING IT WITH US AND OBTAINING GENERAL US CONCURRENCE. HE INTENDS TO SUBMIT THIS PROPOSAL TO EC WORKING GROUP IN EARLY APRIL.

3. TRAN SAYS US DELEGATION TO PREPCOM INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON WHEN HE RETURNS FROM ASIA. TRAN SUGGESTS A VISIT SOMETIME

BETWEEN MARCH 18-25. HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH OFFICIALS IN SEVERAL US AGENCIES WHO ARE DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY MATTERS. TRAN IS ALSO THE COMMISSION CHIEF OF GSP ACTIVITIES. HE WOULD ALSO WELCOME A DISCUSSION WITH US OFFICIAL HANDLING THE GSP REGARDING WAYS TO IMPROVE EC/US GSP COORDINATION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED IF PERIOD OFMARCH 18-25 WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR TRAN TO MEET WITH WASHINGTON OFFICIALS HANDLING UNCTAD COMMODITY DISCUSSIONS AND GSP. HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Reference:** 77 GENEVA 420, 77 GENEVA 419, 77 EC BRUSSELS 397  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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